

Please add the following new claims:

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22. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide also comprises additional amino acid residues at the N-terminus or C-terminus.
23. An isolated polypeptide comprising a variant of the amino acid sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:2 that differs from SEQ ID NO:2 at 10% or less of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.
24. The isolated polypeptide of claim 23 wherein the ability of said polypeptide to stimulate p38 phosphorylation is not substantially diminished.
25. The isolated polypeptide of claim 23 wherein said polypeptide is constitutively active.
26. The isolated polypeptide of claim 23 wherein said polypeptide is constitutively inactive.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 22-26 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention; to place the claims in condition for allowance. New claims 22-26 are fully supported by the instant specification. In particular, support for claim 22 can be found on page 6, lines 21-24. Support for claim 23 can be found on page 2, lines 11-15. Support for claim 24 can be found on page 4, lines 34-37. Support for claims 25-26 can be found on page 2, lines 16-19. Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

A marked up version of the amended claim showing the amendment is attached hereto as Appendix A. Matter that has been deleted is indicated by brackets. A copy of the claims as pending after entry of the foregoing amendment is attached as Appendix B.